

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF MINISTRIES**

MINUTES

MAY 5, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Ministries was held virtually via Zoom due to our inability to meet physically as a result of the coronavirus and the restrictions that have been placed on public meetings. The quorum was met, and President Wendy Keifer-Obrien called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Present: Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien, President, Beth Berry, Vice-President, Bob Butzier, Treasurer, Judy Butzier, Rev. Chip Northup, Peggy Johnson, Mrdith Eckel, Jan Fletcher, Stan Lemons, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman, Nancy Faria, Holly Edwards, Rev. George Barclay, Kathy Black, Amanda Ogilive, Rev. Kathryn Palen and Rev. Dr. Tom Wilses, Executive Minister.

Approved: The minutes of the January 14, 2020 Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bob reviewed the Profit & Loss Statements. We are facing a \$10,000.00 loss in investments due to the downturn in the economic climate created by the coronavirus pandemic.

- Revenue from Camping and Conferencing is taking a big hit.
- United Mission giving was on track at the end of March and was actually showing giving to bit a bit higher that this time last year by approximately 3-5%.
- Nancy Faria, Tom Archer and Tom Wiles are working on a financial plan to keep the Region. There is an arrangement with Alliance to have a weekly draw from the Margin Account for emergencies
- An outside loan request has been initiated but no funds were advanced in the 1st round. The Region has ~~replied~~ applied for funding. 75% of any funds received will be used for staff payroll. The Region is committed to paying staff.
- Meredith Eckel inquired as to what local bank the Region is working with. Bob replied Washington Trust. In spite of the Region's banking relationship with Bank of America, they have not responded favorably.

Camping: Amanda reported that our normal camping season has been suspended. She is researching a variety of options to have some form of virtual camp program during the normal camping season and will be looking through previous years registration forms in an effort to get children, youth and families excited about participating.

Conferencing: Kathy reported that all registered organizations have been informed of the cancellation of events at least through the month of June and possibly throughout the summer months. She is hopeful that some activities planned for the fall will be able to go forward. Four groups out of the 17 on the books requested the return of their deposit, and this has been done.

- Some groups have asked that Canonibus hold their deposit in hopes that things will open up in the fall and their programs can be held.
- Adult Summer Camp cancelled and requested their deposit be returned.
- Two new groups have booked for the fall.
- There is a potential loss of \$15,120,.00, which may be offset by revenue of potentially \$8,000.00 if things open up in the fall.

Elder Care: Kathryn's report provided us with two virtual events being held in this month.

- Coffee Chats being held each Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.
- Five Wishes is a series of discussions on End-of-Life Planning.
- Regrettably, the October 2020 Puerto Rico Mission Tour has been cancelled. There is some Uncertainty as to whether or not this will be scheduled for 2021.

Interim Executive Committee: Wendy, the chair of this committee, reported that the committee initially met with Dr. Jeff Woods, Acting General Secretary, on April 20 via Zoom to give the committee guidance and help us through this process. He has been very helpful.

- Profiles for four candidates have been received and all 4 candidates have been interviewed.
- All have either served in the capacity of Executive Minister or as an Interim Executive Minister.
- Each comes with a different skill set but with experience and gifts that could be beneficial to our Region at this time.
- The committee is working on tweaking the job description received from Dr. Woods.
- We have ranked the candidates in ABC order and will communicate with them once the job description is complete. Our turn around time for responses is one week.
- Because several candidates have family commitments there is a possibility that the start date may be changed from July 1 to the middle of July, at the very latest.
- The interim position is a ¾ time position with the expectation that the candidate will be here at least three Sundays out of the month to attend worship in our churches
- Housing is being options are being looked into.

Kathryn asked the question as to who will be guiding the churches currently in transition?

Beth responded that it is the committee's belief that whoever is selected for the position will work with staff in this area.

Linda Bausserman asked the questions as to why there is nothing in the job description letting candidates know they will be required to assist with helping churches in transition. Wendy responded by saying that the committee will take that into consideration.

All Church Worship Date Change: This service will be held at Greenville Baptist Church. Wendy will check the church calendar for a date. She also suggested that because of the current

situation and the Region's inability to give Tom a proper farewell that the All Church Worship gathering will be the time to honor Tom in a special way.

Closing Words: Tom took this opportunity to express his absolute appreciation for the remarkable staff that is engaged at Canonicus. He encouraged us to be supportive of them and to find ways to do something nice for them.

He also spoke of his joy at meeting with the pastors on Thursday mornings to share their ideas and concerns.

He commented on the Interim Executive Minister Search Committee, the work that is being done, and his confidence in Jeff Woods' ability to assist in helping the group to get a good match for the Region.

Tom also spoke about resources available to the Region including PPP Loan, on-line services, and the ABHMS One Great Hour of Sharing grants available to all American Baptist churches.

As Tom completed his remarks, and after stating how strange it feels to be leaving yet he is looking forward to being with family and making new connections, he used verses from Psalm 31 to close the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McGloshen
Clerk